

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8756

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 12265

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS
E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SNAR; EG
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT FUNDING FOR EGYPT

REF: (A) STATE 107908, (B) STATE 106758, (C) STATE 106703, (D) CAIRO
- 11336, (E) CAIRO 11530, (F) CAIRO 9884

SUMMARY:
EMBASSY BELIEVES NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS IN EGYPT MERIT MODEST USG
EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF INTEREST EXPRESSED BY
CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND MEMBERS OF HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS

WE SHARE VIEWS ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE BUILT PRIMARILY AROUND EGYPTIAN
PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY, ERADICATE AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLICIT
OPIUM CULTIVATION. SUCH PROGRAM WOULD PREVENT EXPANSION OF OPIUM
PRODUCTION WHICH, IF IT OCCURS, COULD LEAD TO EXPORT, HEROIN CONVER-
SION, AND INCREASED DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY OF OPIUM. ASSISTANCE WOULD
CREATE MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT ANGA AND STRENGTHEN DEA/ANGA COOPERATION,
TO BRING MUTUAL BENEFITS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. OUR JUDGMENT IS ANGA
NEEDS SOME ADDITIONAL VEHICLES AND RADIOS, AS WELL AS BULLET-PROOF
JACKETS AND BINOCULARS TO HELP MAKE OPIUM ERADICATION EFFORTS MORE
EFFECTIVE. WE BELIEVE EQUIPMENT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM
WOULD BENEFIT USG NOT ONLY IN CONTEXT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO
NARCOTICS

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CONTROL, BUT WOULD ALSO FIT IN WITH ONE OF MISSION'S MORE GENERAL
GOALS,
WHICH IS THE STRENGTHENING OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
WITH
GOE. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN SUCH MODEST ASSISTANCE WILL
CONTRIBUTE TO DAMPENING POLITICAL FALLOUT OF DISAPPOINTMENT ON PART
OF

ANGA AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHOSE EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY CONGRESSIONAL VISITS AND IN NATURAL COURSE OF COOPERATION WITH DEA, TO WHOM THEY LOOK FOR ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DIFFICULTIES REFLECTED REF A. HOWEVER, WE BE-
LIEVE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS IN EGYPT MERIT MODEST USG EQUIPMENT AS-
SISTANCE. OUR PURPOSE HERE IS TO CLARIFY THE OBJECTIVES OF EGYPT'S NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND EXPLICITLY RELATE OUR EQUIPMENT REQUESTS TO ANGA'S NEED AND USE OF EQUIPMENT. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE USG BE HELPFUL IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST ON RTOF REPRESENTATIVE LESTER WOLFF AND HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR NARCOTICS. DURING VISIT IN 1976 CODEL WOLFF EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF USING CCINC FUNDS TO ASSIST GOE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS. IT RTH NOTING CODEL LFF WAS IMPRESSED BY EGYPTIAN PROFESSIONALISM AND PUBLICLY DESCRIBED ANGA AS "ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY REGARDED ANTI NARCOTICS SERVICES IN THE WORLD."

2. OBJECTIVE. THE OBJECTIVE OF EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE TO ASSIST ANGA IN IDENTIFYING, ERADICATING, AND PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF ILLICIT OPIUM CULTIVATION. US SUPPORT OF SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD BENEFIT US IN FOLLOWING WAYS: MORE EFFECTIVE ERADICATION IS CERTAINLY IN LINE WITH USG INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL CULTIVATION AND TRAFFICKING IN OPIUM. A MORE EFFECTIVE ERADICATION PROGRAM WOULD DECREASE LIKELI-
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HOOD THAT ACREAGE CULTIVATION WOULD INCREASE. SHOULD LATTER OCCUR, IT WOULD RAISE POSSIBILITY EGYPT MIGHT PRODUCE SURPLUS OF OPIUM FOR EXPORTOR BEGIN HEROIN CONVERSION (DATE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH CONVERSION). ANGA HAS REPORTED TREND OF INCREASING CULTIVATION. FOLLOWING ARE ANGA FIGURES:

LOWING ARE ANGA FIGURES:

-	OPIUM SEIZURES:	1976	360 KG
-		1977	1095 KG
-	OPIUM ERADICATION:	1976	8 ACRES
-		1977	130 ACRES
-		1978	205 ACRES
-	OPIUM PRICE PER KILOGRAM:		
-		1976	\$7,000.00 PER/KG
-		1977	\$3,000.00 PER/KG (FOREIGN)
-		1978	\$3,000.00 PER/KG (FOREIGN)
-			\$1,400.00 PER/KG (EGYPTIAN)

INCREASED OPIUM SEIZURES AND ERADICATION, IN ADDITION TO LOWER PRICE PER KILOGRAM (IN PARTICULAR EGYPTIAN OPIUM), INDICATE INCREASED AVAILABILITY AND SUGGEST THERE MAY BE INCREASED CULTIVATION. ANGA HAS NO

HARD EVIDENCE AT THE MOMENT THAT THIS IS THE CASE, BUT IS RRIED
ABOUT POSSIBILITY. MOREOVER, EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE WOULD CREATE MORE
SELF-SUFFICIENT AND INDEPENDENT ANGA AND WOULD STRENGTHEN DEA/ANGA CO

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OPERATION. PAST COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES HAS RESULTED IN
SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES AND A NUMBER OF CURRENT NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS
OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE. THIS COOPERATION HAS NATURALLY LED
ANGATO EXPECT SOME ASSISTANCE IN RETURN (NOT AS QUID PRO QUO), AND
ANGA FEELS THIS ASSISTANCE SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT THEY CAN

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NOT OBTAIN OTHERWISE.

3. PRESENT CAPABILITIES. ANGA CONSISTS OF 38 OFFICERS AND POSSESSES
FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT, WHICH IT OBTAINED FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR:
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6 SEDANS (FIATS - NOT 4-WHEEL DRIVE)
1 BASE RADIO STATION (INOPERABLE BECAUSE OF FAULTY ANTENNA)
3 VEHICLE RADIOS (INOPERABLE BECAUSE OF FAULTY ANTENNAE)
6 PORTABLE RADIOS
1 NIGHT SCOPE
1 PICKUP TRUCK (NOT 4-WHEEL DRIVE)
1 VOLKSWAGEN BUS (NOT 4-WHEEL DRIVE)

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IN ADDITION, ANGA HAS FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT ON LOAN FROM DEA:

2 TRANSMITTER RECEIVER SYSTEMS. THESE ARE NOT RADIOS (1 CURRENTLY

BEING REPAIRED AT DEA HQ)

1 NIGHT SCOPE

BASE RADIO STATION AND VEHICLES ARRIVED IN INOPERABLE CONDITION AND REPLACENT PARTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED.

4. EQUIPMENT REQUESTS. WE DO NOT EXPECT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO PRO

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VIDE ANY ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT BECAUSE NARCOTICS PROBLEMS VIEWED IN TERMS OF OVERALL INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS, IS REGARDED AS LIMITED IN SCOPE AND MANAGBLE. MINISTRY IS SHORT OF EQUIPMENT AND PRIORITIES ARE ASSIGNED ON BASIS PROMINENCE OF PROBLEMS. PRIORITY NOT LIKELY TO BE RAISED UNTIL DRUG PROBLEM BECOMES MORE SERIOUS. WE BELIEVE PBLEM SHOULD BE CONTAINED NOW BEFORE IT REACHES SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND FUNDING OF FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF IDENTIFICATION AND ERADICATION EFFORTS:

5 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES WITH RADIOS - \$30,000.00

10 BILVCULARS - \$500.00

20 BULLET-PROOF, LIGHT-WEIGHT JACKETS - \$4,000.00

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5 PORTABLE RADIOS - \$7,500.00

5. JUSTIFICATION. ABOVE REQUESTS BASED ON OUR PAST ASSESSMENT OF ANGA'S ABILITY TO USE AND MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR ERADICATION PROGRAM. THE FIVE 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES WILL ALLOW ANGA TO MOUNT MORE FREQUENT ERADICATION OPERATIONS IN INACCESSIBLE AREAS BY TRANSPORTING ADEQUATE NUMBER OF MEN FOR ERADICATION OPERATIONS. THIS WILL LESSEN ANGA'S DEPENDENCE ON BORROWED VEHICLE ASSISTANCE FROM PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES, WHOSE 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR ERADICATION OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF COMPETING REQUIREMENTS. THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES IN PAST WHEN ANGA HAS HAD TO CANCEL ERADICATION OPERATIONS BECAUSE SUCH VEHICLES WERE UNAVAILABLE. A MORE MOBILE ANGA WOULD BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN AREAS OUTSIDE TRADITIONAL CULTIVATION AREAS BECAUSE OF INCRSIED FLEXIBILITY IN MOUNTING OPERATIONS INDEPENDENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES. AS FOR PORTABLE RADIOS, AS WELL AS

RADIOS IN VEHICLES, COMMUNICATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR COORDINATION AND SECURITY DURING ERADICATION OPERATIONS. WE BELIEVE FIVE PORTABLE RADIOS IS NUMBER SUFFICIENT FOR EACH ERADICATION TEAM (ONE TEAMTO EACH 4-WHEEL VEHICLE) TO HAVE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY WHILE EACH TEAM ISOUTOF VEHICLE DURING ERADICATION OPERATION. TO FACILITATEOBSERVATION OF FIELDS AND DETECTION OFARMEDOPPOSITION 10 PAIRS OF BINOCULARS WOULD BE REASONABLE NUMBER FOR STRIKE FORCE BUILTAROUND FIVE 4-WHEEL VEHICLES. FINALLY, BULLET-PROOF JACKETS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OPIUM ERADICATION EFFORTS IN EGYPT. OPIUM GROWERS, AS IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE RLD, AREOFTEN ARMED AND OFFICERS OFTEN MEET WITH ARMED

RESISTANCE. ONE OFFICER WAS RECENTLY KILLED IN A RECENT ERADICATION OPERATION IN ELMINYA (REF E). WE BELIEVE THAT 20 JACKETS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. WHILE THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHETHER THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN ANGARA (AS REPORTED REF F), THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPLORED. THERE IS A REASONABLE PROSPECT HE EVENTUALLY WILL AGREE. WE AGREE THERE SHOULD BE NO ASSISTANCE WITHOUT A BILATERAL AGREEMENT.

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6. ZBB CONSIDERATIONS. WE BELIEVE FUNDING OF EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT OPIUM IDENTIFICATION AND ERADICATION EFFORTS WOULD NOT ONLY BENEFIT US IN A NARROW CONTEXT OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, BUT WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MISSION'S OVERALL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. ONE OF THE MISSION'S GOALS IS TO STRENGTHEN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GOAL. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IS ITSELF A USEFUL FABRIC OF COOPERATION AS WELL AS ONE SYMBOL OF OUR CLOSE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT WHICH IS VITAL TO ACHIEVE LARGER FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT SOME MODEST EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ANGARA, RELATED OPIUM IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL EFFORTS WOULD ALSO PREVENT POLITICAL FALLOUT RESULTING FROM ANGARA AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING. ANGARA EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY CODEL LFF VISIT, AS WELL AS NATURAL TENDENCY OF ANGARA TO LOOK TO US FOR ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF COOPERATION WITH DEA. WE AGREE ANGARA'S EXPECTATIONS SHOULD BE LOWERED, BUT BELIEVE MODEST ASSISTANCE LISTED ABOVE IS JUSTIFIED.

7. SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE MISSION RECENTLY RECEIVED PROPOSAL FROM REMOTE SENSING CENTER (RSC) IN CAIRO REQUESTING FUNDING (\$100,000 FOR THREE-YEAR PROGRAM) FOR AN AERIAL OPIUM DETECTION PROGRAM. RSC REPORTED THEY WILL SOON TAKE DELIVERY OF BEECHCRAFT KING AIR 200 EQUIPPED AND MODIFIED FOR TYPE OF PHOTOGRAPHY NECESSARY FOR DETECTION OF OPIUM CULTIVATION SITES. DEA CAIRO FORWARDED LIST OF RSC EQUIPMENT AND PROPOSED OPERATION TO DEA RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING DIVISION FOR EVALUATION REGARDING COMPATIBILITY OF THEIR EQUIPMENT TO OPIUM DETECTION OPERATION. IN ABSENCE OF SOME HARD COLLATERAL EVIDENCE THAT POPPY CULTIVATION IS SPREADING, SUCH FUNDING MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY. HOWEVER, WE WOULD HOPE DEPT WOULD LEAVE OPEN THE OPTION IN THE EVENT ANGARA FINDS EVIDENCE THAT SUCH INCREASE IN ILLICIT CULTIVATION MAY BE TAKING PLACE.

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8. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF DEPT'S PRELIMINARY REACTION
SINCE ANGA REMAINS HOPEFUL AND IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO KEEP IT
ON
A STRING. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SNAR, EG
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